

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01985 081559Z

51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SCCT-01 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

EA-10 OMB-01 IO-10 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /081 W

----- 038818

O R 081330Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6277

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1985

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON SOBER INTERVIEW

1. ISRAELI PRESS AND RADIO GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO
DEPT ASST SEC SOBER NOV 7 MEEINTG WITH ISRAELI
MK ALMERT.

2. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF ACCOUNT BY

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT:

QUOTE: ISRAEL HAS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO WXR
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO, THIS WAS SAID BY ACTING
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS, SYDNEY
SOBER IN TALKS HELD YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON
WITH LIKUD MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT EHUD ULMART. SOBER
CLAIMS THAT CHANCES ARE SLIM TO RESTORE TO KING HUSSEIN
THE STATUS HE ENJOYED IN THE WEST BANK. SOBER ALSO
SAID THAT ISRAEL CANNOT IGNORE THE PALESTINIANS; THE
SOLE ACCEPTABLE ELEMENT AMONG THE PALESTINIANS IS THE
PLO. SOBER BELIEVES THAT ISRAEL SHOULD NOT CREATE
SITUATIONS THAT MIGHT ENCOURAGE EXTREMISM AMONG
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01985 081559Z

PALESTINIANAS, ACCORDING TO HIM, ISRAEL SHOULD NOT ONLY

SEARCH FOR THE NEGATIVE ELEMENTS IN THEIR DECLARATIONS. ACCORDING TO SOBER'S ESTIMATE, THE PLO BY VIRTUE OF ITS NEW STATUS, WILL HAVE MORE MODERATE INCLINATIONS. THEREFORE, ISRAEL SHOULD ENCOURAGE THESE TENDENCIES. ULMART, WHO IS LECTURING IN THE US, TOLD SOBER THAT THERE IS A NATIONAL CONSENSUS IN ISRAEL AGAINST TALKS WITH PLO. ALMART EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOBER'S VIEWS AND IS WORRIED THAT THESE VIEWS REFLECT A CHANGE IN US POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT.

AT THE START OF CONVERSATION, SOBER SAID THAT HE IS GIVING HIS PERSONAL OPINION WHICH IS NOT 'BINDING' UPON THE ADMINISTRATION, HOWEVER, THE CONVERSATION AT WHICH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY WAS PRESENT, WAS RECORDED BY A STATE DEPARTMENT STENOGRAPHER. IN REPLY TO DAVAR CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION, SOBER CONFESSED THAT HE TOLD ALMART THAT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE CONTACTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE PLO. HOWEVER, HE DENIED THAT HE SAID ISRAEL SHOULD OPEN CONTACTS WITH THE PLO. SOBER SAID: QUOTE: IN THIS PRIVATE CONVERSATION, I REITERATED MY PRIVATE VIEWS ON THE CHANGING SITUATION AFTER RABAT SUMMIT. I DID NOT SAY THAT ISRAEL SHOULD OPEN TALKS WITH THE PLO. AT ANY RATE, AT ONE POINT ALMART ASKED ME IF I CAN ENVISAGE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH ISRAEL CAN HOLD CONTACTS WITH PLO. I ANSWERED THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE AT LEAST ONE SITUATION IN WHICH ISRAEL COULD NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLO ON CONDITION THAT PLO MODERATES ITS STANCE; FOR EXAMPLE, IF PLO EXPRESSES ITS DESIRE TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ISRAEL. REGARDING RABAT, IS SAID THAT THE SUMMIT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTED THE ARAB POSITION, TO WHICH HUSSEIN HAS AGREED AND ACCORDING TO WHICH THE PLO, AND NOT HUSSEIN, IS THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENT. HOWEVER, I DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT HUSSEIN MIGHT FILL A ROLE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FUTURE. UNQUOTE.

3. HAARETZ WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT'S ACCOUNT:

QUOTE: ISRAEL MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEW REALITIES AND THE CONSENSUS IN THE WESTERN WORLD THAT THE PLO IS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS AND ISRAEL MUST ADAPT ITSELF TO THIS SITUATION--THIS AS SAID BY DEPUTY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 JERUSA 01985 081559Z

ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER (WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT) IN HIS MEETING WITH LIKUD KNESSET MEMBER EHUD ALMADAN. MR. SOBER, WHO SAID THAT HE IS EXPRESSING HIS PRIVATE OPINION, CLAIMED THAT HUSSEIN HAS LOST HIS INFLUENCE IN THE WEST BANK. HE ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAEL SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO ENTER INTO IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PLO, IT WILL HAVE TO DO SO AFTER TERRORISTS FORM A GOVERNMENT IN

-EXILE, AND PROVE THAT THEY ARE MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE
AND RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. THIS CONVERSA-
TION WAS HELD AFTERMR. MORDECHAI SHILO(ISRAELI
EMBASSY) OBTAINED CLARIFIATIONS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE THAT
THE US HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY AND IS NOT PROPOSING
THAT ISRAEL HOLD TALKS WITH THE PLO. DURING THE CONVERSA-

TION SOBER SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS CHANGED ITS
POSITION TOWARD CHINA AND IT MIGHT CHANGE IT TOWARD JORDAN.
AUTHORITATIVE SOURCES SAID THAT SOBER'S REMARKS REFLECT
TENDENCIES PREVAILING AMONG CERTAIN STATE DEPARTMENT
CIRCLES. IN THIS CONTEXT THEY RECALLED PRESIDENT FORD'S
SLIP OF THE TONGUE. UNQUOTE.
DAY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JERUSA01985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740322-0080
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741160/aaaabyni.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI PRESS ON SOBER INTERVIEW
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, XF, PLO, (SOBER, SYDNEY), (ULMART, EHUD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005